

**REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request that the foregoing amendments be made prior to examination of the present application.

In the specification, the cross-reference paragraph has been amended on page 1.

Claims 1, 12, 21, 22 and 24 – 29 have been amended and claims 5 – 9, 16, 20 and 23 are requested to be cancelled.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1 – 4, 10 – 15, and 17 – 19, 21, 22 and 24 – 29 are now pending in this application.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

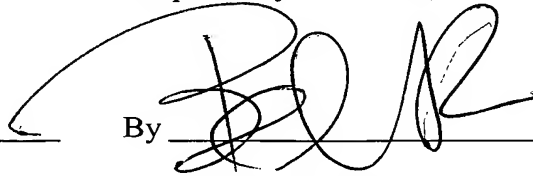
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

1/16/04

By



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